66. Ms. MURUGESAN (India), in reply to the reference made by the representative of Pakistan to the status of women in India, said that the deplorable situation of Pakistani women called the credibility of his statement into question. She would make available to Committee members for their information a recent publication entitled "Silenced and Unequal: the Plight of Pakistani Women".

67. Mr. UMAR (Pakistan) said that India was distorting the situation of women in Pakistan. Violations of women's rights did exist in his country, as everywhere, but they were isolated occurrences representing the failings of human nature. Abuses existed even in countries which were highly developed from a sociological standpoint.

68. The situation in Kashmir was different, however, because massive, continuous and systematic violations were being committed against the innocent civilian population as a deliberate State policy. Rape was being used to dominate a nation. Although India had the temerity to champion the cause of women's rights in Pakistan, women throughout the world could only be grateful that they were spared the privilege of being protected by the Indian security forces.

AGENDA ITEM 100: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/C.3/49/L.34, L.35, L.37, L.40 and L.41)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.34

69. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) introduced on behalf of its sponsors, joined by Myanmar and the United Republic of Tanzania, the draft resolution entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes" (A/C.3/49/L.34). Since the draft was based on previous General Assembly resolutions and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, he hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.35

70. Ms. VALLE CAMINO (Cuba) introduced on behalf of its sponsors the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity" (A/C.3/49/L.35). Its sponsors hoped thus to contribute to the search for a truly universal approach to human rights that recognized the diversity of political, economic and social systems of countries and the historical, cultural and religious traditions of peoples. She hoped that it would be adopted without a vote, as in the past.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.37

71. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) introduced on behalf of its sponsors the draft resolution entitled "Respect for the universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification" (A/C.3/49/L.37). He drew attention to

an amendment to the text of paragraph 4 of the English version. In the second line, the phrase "the freedom of migrants to travel" should be deleted and the words "of documented migrants" added after the words "family reunification". He also informed the Committee that a more idiomatic version of the Spanish text of the draft resolution had been provided to the Secretariat, which would have it reissued for technical reasons. He hoped that the new version would be issued before the adoption of the resolution. His country was continuing its consultations with any interested delegations.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.40

72. Mr. BATU (Turkey) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Human rights and terrorism" (A/C.3/49/L.40) on behalf of its sponsors, joined by Costa Rica, Honduras, Mauritania, Sudan and Tunisia. The United Nations system had been established for the purpose of creating an environment conducive to the full respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Unfortunately, it had not yet fully succeeded in its mission; there remained at least one major obstacle to the full exercise of all those rights, namely, terrorism. That violation of the most basic human right - the right to life - was characterized by its ferocity, its contagious nature and the fact that it struck out indiscriminately against innocent civilians and threatened society as a whole.

73. The international community must act in order to bring an end to that form of violence. It had already taken noteworthy steps in that direction by means of the resolutions adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly, based on article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. Turkey urged the international community to adopt the draft resolution in order to reiterate its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, express its firm resolve to combat that practice and affirm its solidarity with its victims. Since the text of the draft was based on resolutions which the General Assembly had previously adopted on that topic, he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

74. Mr. PSICHARIS (Greece) noted, with regard to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, that the Security Council, by its resolution 817 (1993), had decided that that State should be provisionally referred to by the name "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" while awaiting the settlement of the dispute which had arisen regarding its name.

75. Mr. BATU (Turkey) questioned the right of a country to impose a name on another State.

76. Mr. PSICHARIS (Greece) said that it was not Greece which had imposed that name, but the Security Council.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.41

77. Ms. VALLE CAMINO (Cuba) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms"

(A/C.3/49/L.41) on behalf of its sponsors. She hoped it would be adopted without a vote as in previous years.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

78. The CHAIRMAN said that the consideration of agenda item 12 would be deferred until the week of 12 December. It would be preferable for the Committee to wait until it had completed its work before considering its organization of work for the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and the draft biennial programme of work.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.